



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 13 2014

Andrea Hall Adebowale, Acting Director
City of Newark
Department of Water and Sewer Utilities
Division of Sewer and Water Supply
920 Broad Street, Room B-31F
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Ms. Adebowale:

This is in response to your request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for the water supply system security improvements project to be implemented by the City of Newark in Essex County, New Jersey.

The Pequannock Water Treatment Plant (PWTP) and five reservoir dams located in Morris, Passaic, and Sussex Counties, which are part of the City of Newark's Pequannock Reservoir System, are critical assets. These facilities are identified in the EPA-mandated vulnerability assessment and by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control. To protect these critical assets from potential terrorism or other malcontents at the Canistear, Clinton, Charlotteburg, and Oak Ridge Reservoirs and Echo Lake, the following security installations are required:

1. Fencing and locking gates with monitoring sensors.
2. Surveillance cameras at the gate houses.
3. Lights atop of the dam.
4. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) - like system for access control and alarm/video transmission to the PWTP control room.
5. Doors with appropriate security and lock sensors to replace existing non-secure doors.
6. Crash resistant gates with monitoring systems and security locks.

Additionally, an all-terrain vehicle and zodiac type boat will need to be acquired by the City for use to access and to monitor the critical assets at the five reservoir locations and the PWTP. Improvements to the existing access roads are also required for the year around safe passage for police, fire, and other emergency response personal and City employees to reach these critical asset locations.

This project meets the CATEX eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii). This category includes "actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water, or capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Additionally, the information you provided concerning the proposed action indicates that none of the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10), are present. Based on our review of the supporting documentation, EPA approves a CATEX for the project. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX should any of the following conditions occur:

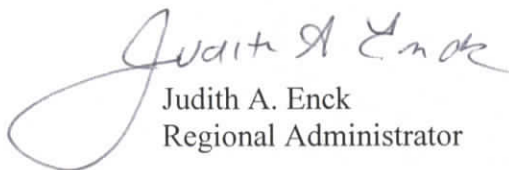
- if changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- if new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- if federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Furthermore, EPA strongly encourages project sponsors to incorporate green practices into all phases of a project, including planning, design, and construction. Such practices can promote sustainable infrastructure, support development of a "green" workforce, and reduce long-term operation and maintenance costs. In previous correspondence with you, we have enclosed a copy of a fact sheet for your information that identifies a variety of recommendations that should be given consideration in future projects. EPA hopes to see green practices incorporated as a standard part of future projects in the City of Newark.

This CATEX is available for public viewing on EPA Region 2's website, [http:// www. epa.gov/ region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm).

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Joseph Beckmeyer, P.E., Department of Water and Sewer Utilities Consultant